

Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Open House
May 14, 2003 – Vashon Island
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

MANAGEMENT/LAND USE

- How complex will the management plans be?
- Why don't we have an aquatic reserve now?
- This island community is uniquely qualified to aid in the management of the reserve.
- Concern where gavel pit are has not been developed – it's pristine.
- What's not disturbed should remain undisturbed.
- Would not want anyone to lose their beach.
- What are the roles of the Puyallup Tribe and Department of Fish and Wildlife?
- WDFW fit in the same spot as the Tribe.
- Regulators need to be involved in management planning.
- What are the goals of the reserve?
- Boundary question: Tramp Harbor and KVI Beach (Heyer Point), which is the last saltwater marsh in King County.
- Eelgrass beds – black brant geese, which is a species in decline in Puget Sound and is being watched by WDFW.
- Were they arbitrary boundaries?
- Include property owners in development of management plans.
- Gold Beach Community Club.
- Proximity of this pristine site to national cleanup site (Commencement Bay) calls out for protection/preservation.
- Population centers nearby Seattle and Tacoma – need to put pressure on the site.
- The site should be protected from that pressure.
- Whatever you do, make sure that the paperwork is not complicated and expensive.
- The expense and degree of the paperwork shut down the people who try to follow the rules.
- Concerned that business interests can come in and take over the area when they have no vested interest in the community.
- Business interests with a history of illegal activity, convictions, and unsavory environmental practices should not be part of management planning.
- Granted an aquatic reserve, the concerns cited in preceding comment must be held accountable in such a way that bankruptcy or reorganization is not an "out" – personal felonious responsibility ascribed to CEO, CFO, and Chairman of Board of Directors.
- Aquatic reserves should be expanded to include the entire west coast of Vashon Island, which appears to be a very healthy ecosystem with extensive eelgrass beds.
- Recognize the importance of this aquatic reserve and that it's most of central Puget Sound's undeveloped shoreline in King County.
- Also, recognize that the community supports this.
- The community's stewardship and support are essential to its success.

- An education approach is better than an adversarial one, especially with some of the business interest.
- Suggestions of Vashon Island groups to involve in management planning include:
 - Community council – heavy metals remediation.
 - Vashon Audubon – contact Rayna Holtz.
 - Vashon Land Trust – contact Pam Purdy.
 - King County Parks – contact Wendy Braicks.
 - Vashon Part District – contact Wendy Braicks.
 - Sustainable Vashon – contact Rita Schenck.
 - Vashon Rowing Club.
 - Quartermaster Marina.
 - The Yacht Club.
 - Camp Burton.
 - Camp Sealth.
 - Service Clubs – Rotary, Kiwanis, and Sportsman's.
 - Chamber of Commerce.
 - Vashon Island Grower's Association (VIGA).
 - Preserve Our Islands.
 - People for Puget Sound.
 - 1,000 Friends of Washington.
 - Soundwaves Scuba Company (Charter Co.).
 - Hikers, horseback riders – contact Chris Trevyllan.
 - Puget Sound Kayakers.
 - Basin Steward King County – contact Katie VanderPool.
 - Washington Environmental Council.
 - Vashon Green Party.
 - Democrats and Republicans – contact Joe Ulataski.
 - Washington Native Plant Society.
 - Native Plan Stewards.
- Use common sense and throw away the rules.
- Do the right thing and preserve/keep/expand the reserve.
- Educational approach.
- Private landowners are not organized.
- Create a Vashon Reserve Advisory Group.
- Glacier property is currently being mined with gravel pushed over the 300' bluff line and is endangering the shoreline.
- Washington Trout survey found a large number of culverts that prohibit fish passage (see web site) Rayana Holtz.
- Fully half of underdeveloped shoreline in King County is on Vashon/Maury Island.
- Non-native eelgrass (Japonica) creating terraces at mid-tide level and freezing sand migration.
- Freighter traffic exceeds speed – shakes houses and creates big waves.
- Recreational boaters dig geoducks in Quartermaster Harbor (no licenses, over-digging, don't fill holes).
- Complete moratorium on bulkheads (all new bulkhead construction).
- Address issues regarding illegal bulkheads

- Want more aggressive identification and replacement/upgrade of failing septic systems with some public funding, if funding is needed (i.e., low-interest loans, federal grants, etc., public assistance for public problem).
- Investigate and talk about septic designs to incorporate in difficult sites.
- The southwest side of Maury Island is currently in reserve status – concerned about the effects of development/pollution on wildlife (from smallest species to Orcas pride of the Pacific Northwest).
- Tons of geoduck present and problems could affect tribal harvest.
- Concerns regarding proposed Glacier berm – concentrated arsenic could pollute drinking water/aquifer (proposed berm is very close to aquifer-contaminated seems likely).
- Glacier site is very important for fish ecosystem created by barges.
- Also, important to recreational opportunities – very popular site for destination divers.
- Dive companies use that site for beginning – professional divers.
- 100' away from barges is desolate.
- Barge reef will be destroyed if Glacier gets permits.
- Concern for diver safety if Glacier is operating – contrary to what Glacier has said.
- They will knock barge reef structure loose.
- Prop wash from large boats will destroy habitat and structure.
- King County should designate all Vashon/Maury Island as “wilderness” area to showcase how nature and people can co-exist (ex. How federal government has designated wilderness areas that also have development).
- Update moorage map because it doesn't accurately show existing conditions.
- Many homeowners are putting in mooring buoys especially at Dockton and inner Quartermaster Harbor.
- At Portage, there seems to be an increasing amount of submerged (rotting) wood and debris.
- At Portage, Quartermaster Bay is filling in. Is anybody tracking depth at high tide? (over time).
- Organization (contact Rita Schenk) is working on project to designate Vashon's self-sustaining, independent entity (e.g., energy, already sole source aquifer, waste stream, etc.).
- Community council has sustainability committee – Jack Barbash is the representative on the council.
- Saltwater marsh at Portage was closed with culverts in 30s and 40s.
- King County plan calls for opening Portage for connectivity.
- Proposal by King County WLRD to restore Portage saltwater marsh.
- Correct water quality map (section 36). The NW quarter is underdeveloped and should not have water quality problem. Correspond to track 10300 on fish habitat and ecosystem map. If track 10300 truly is polluted then why isn't area across by polluted, too? (Track 10250).
- Glacier site acts as a feeder bluff for the transport of sediment into the Gold Beach area.
- Eelgrass has started to move back into this area.
- Keep Portage/Dockton (Tramp Harbor Road) open because it's the only view to the east.

- Concerned about opening Portage between Quartermaster and Tramp Harbor. Tramp Harbor is lower and who would keep culvert open? How far out would dredging have to go?
- Boundaries should be extended to benefit important habitats in Tramp Harbor all the way to Port Heyer. This could also include enhancements. King County is working on with community to Ellisport Creek estuary and Portage saltwater marsh.
- We cannot trust Glacier's promise to "rebuild" any damaged shorelines. They have a recorded track record of making just such promises and breaking them. Convicted felons for polluting (Ron Summers in Oregon).

NATURAL/BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Herring holding area – update data.
- Eelgrass observations – Camp Burton and Jensen's Point.
- Marine Riparian Buffer (in press) Estuaries – by Jim Brennan, Culyerwell.
- Fishery observations – Gold Beach Eastside Maury – sandlance and geoduck fishing.
- Pacific Black Brant – stopover point.
 - Observed in Tramp Harbor.
 - Stopover points are critical areas.
 - Also, Sandy Shores observed five years ago – eelgrass has disappeared.
- Marine bird data – Audubon database.
- Eelgrass observed inner harbor marina area.
- More recent stock assessments needed.
- Maury Island barges – dive site frequented (20 years).
 - Usage estimation, Rock Cod, Ling Cod – underestimate cycles, Octapi – observed three nests (squid, shrimp).
 - Scuba observations.
 - Creates artificial reef habitat.
 - Recreational value is high.
 - Habitat creation.
 - Best dive site for South Sound.
- Fisheries observations – entrance to outer Quartermaster Harbor.
- Nighttime harvesting geoduck and salmon (not legal?).
- Quartermaster Harbor designated National Audubon – important bird area.
- Point Heyer – only remaining salt marsh.
 - Can reserve be expanded to include this salt marsh?
 - Wintering habitat for birds – also, Tramp Harbor wintering
 - Habitat especially loons, grebes, widgeons and brants.
 - Portage was also a historically important hunting area
 - Historical value – currently important flyaway area.
- Not addressed – Orcas who range over southern residents threatened (ESA).
- November through February – forage, particularly Point Robinson and east shore of Maury Island – near to shore (historically they entered Quartermaster Harbor) 1900s.
- Ann Stateler and Mark Sears – Whale Museum connection (west Seattle resident) 25-30 year observer of South Sound Whales. Using three pods – increasing usage in past six years.

- Is food resource changing?
- What are they eating in the winter = research Quartermaster Harbor – needs to be studied.
- Herring spawning is an important resource to protect.
- Non-native eelgrass (two Japonica) taking over mud tide zone and is creating terraces and freezing sand.
- Mitigation in these areas – inner and outer areas of Quartermaster Harbor and Vashon Island.
- Major change in beach morphology.
- Piner Point is an important feeder bluff and is also important to preserve.
- Important seal haul out area near Gold Beach – not many other haul out areas in central Puget Sound.
- East passage – eastside of Maury Island is Good Dahl's Porpoise feeding area (herring?) up to 12 at a time.
- Connectivity should be maintained and preserved - Quartermaster Harbor across Portage through Tramp Harbor and all the way to KVI (Point Heyer).
- Can reserve boundaries be expanded?
- Include data on non-native SPP.
- Non-native Sargassum also – KVI (Point Heyer) inside Point Robinson Sandy Beach. Also, People for Puget Sound Survey.
- We support preserving the reserve because it is vital to the overall health of Puget Sound and Our Environment.
- We are one big connected ecosystem.
- Thank you for listening and considering our concerns and comments.

SITE EVALUATION

- People want to be involved
- Implementation document – any public comment period?
- Is DNR initiating scientific research and proposed sites?
- Technical Advisory Committee needs a community member.
- Reserve program is much too small – preserve entire sound.
- Public review on technical findings prior to designations.
- Why stop reserve?
- Continue Tramp Harbor (large eelgrass bed and Brandt usage).
- Consider adjacent land conditions when designating reserve.
- Islanders are interested in maintaining pristine area more than opposition.
- Criteria for designation should include local attitude.
- Document Commissioner Sutherland's decision.
- Public review.
- Criteria should be above and beyond.
- Environmental criteria are accessibility by metropolitan areas.